

From: Lorrie

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:50 AM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] London, Fireworks do not belong in the Climate Policy Lane

Please add this full email to the agenda for the council meeting regarding Fireworks By-law PW11. I gave permission for my submission to be added to the agenda.

Good day CPSC and councillors,

A healthy environment is good for everyone. Many cities across Ontario and around the world have stopped the practice of adding the unnecessary fire risk and air pollution of fireworks due to mounting evidence of ecological and environmental harm. The reasons are clear and valid.

Please consider this logic. We have a Climate Action plan in London. We have an updated yard maintenance bylaw that supports naturalized areas. We have a thriving green bin program. We are encouraging people and developers to save local birds and plant native trees. We have bicycle paths to encourage the use of bicycles to reduce auto pollution. We are expanding bussing. We have the BRT bus rapid transit program in progress. These are excellent practices and policies that prove that our City Council is aware of the environmental consequences of human activity. We are driving in the lane of forward thinking, the lane of pollution harm and green house gas reduction. We are in the lane that says we know the truth about adding more pollutants, reducing natural spaces and removing unnecessary causes of environmental harm. While auto, bus and manufacturing cause pollution they are necessary. Fireworks are not.

What we do today sets an example for other municipalities.

Our programs say London is aware of the environmental situation we are in, London understands climate risks and impacts. That our future does require some sacrifice in order to mitigate negative effects, to make living in London, healthy, enjoyable and beneficial to all. London City Council is thinking long term. Drawing up a list outlining the pros and cons of backyard fireworks would produce a two column chart with a very clear discrepancy: a multitude of cons on the left, and one pro on the right. Yet, somehow it is enough for London policy to jump the curb on our lane. The fire emergency services are costly and the environmental impacts are costly. Let's think about the future, let's not make a shortsighted decision with long-term consequences. Let's stay in the right lane. Let's follow the facts, let's have a policy that is environmentally supportive, that is good for everyone, a policy that makes sense for everyone. We are in a climate crisis. This is not the time to entertain ourselves with more fire, air pollution, noise pollution, burnt packaging plastics, and toxins in the watershed. There are historical ways to celebrate, such as candles, lanterns, lights and sparklers, as well as modern innovations, such as lasers and drone light shows.

I am pleading on behalf of every nesting bird, family pet, and farm animal. Consider that the long-term solution to this dilemma is to focus on real climate solutions, by staying in the right lane. Show leadership and consistency in the great new policies London has put forth in that regard. London needs to continue to focus on protecting our environment, our air quality and our urban wildlife, for our children and grandchildren.

Please stay in the right lane stay, for all Londoners. This is our opportunity. If not now, when?

Respectfully  
Lorrie Miller